



# Maker pioneers from Iraq visit MIT campus

*Makerspace acted to avoid looking like terrorist outfit*

By Drew Bent and Sanjana Srivastava

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITORS

Three Iraqi technologists who founded the first makerspace in Basra, Iraq visited MIT on Monday and Tuesday to meet with various labs and student groups as part of a tour hosted by the Media Lab and the Undergraduate Association Innovation Committee.

The technologists had wanted to experience MIT's maker culture and technologies firsthand, as well as share the challenges they faced establishing a makerspace in Iraq. In classic MIT style, they also had the opportunity to sail on the Charles River late Monday afternoon with UA President Matthew J. Davis '16.

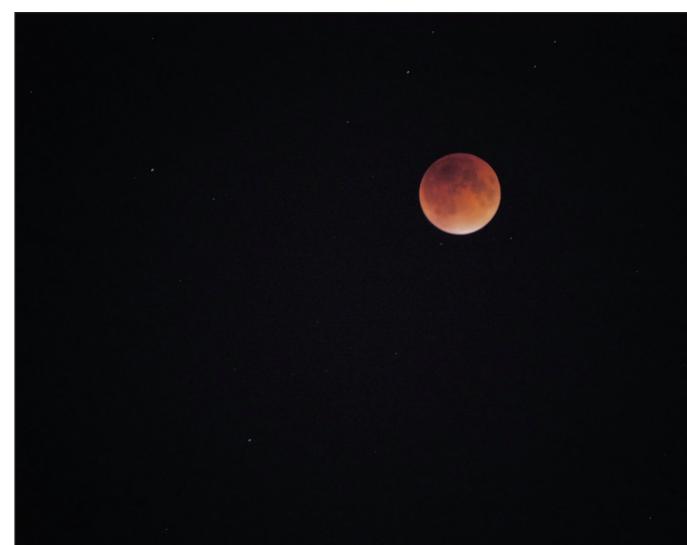
Nawres Arif started his career in pharmacology, but says he's been a maker his entire life. In March 2014, he started the makerspace Science Camp on the side and made it the second established makerspace in all of Iraq. He and his co-founders, however, have faced numerous challenges, especially when it comes to Iraqi law.

Due to the machines and chemicals they use in Science Camp, Arif told *The Tech* that their makerspace could easily resemble a terrorist organization's operations. As a result, Arif looked for a way to get the makerspace sanctioned. He met with the Minister of Science and Technology to share the idea for Science Camp, and together they rewrote a law about technological incubation in Iraq and introduced makerspaces into the law.

Then, just a few weeks ago, the Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi consolidated parts of the government amidst protests and merged the Ministry of Science and Technology with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, bringing uncertainty to the future of Science Camp and forcing Arif and his co-founders to consider alternative ways to legally structure it.

While Arif and his colleagues face challenges like these all the time, their efforts finally met with success this past April when Arif entered a startup competition hosted by the MIT Enterprise Forum Pan Arab Region. He made it through the first round, and even though he was denied a visa to compete at the finals in Kuwait, he participated online over Skype. Arif finished in

**Makers, Page 14**



A "blood moon" lit the night sky on Sunday. A lunar tetrad, or a fourth consecutive total lunar eclipse with no partial eclipses in between, coincided with a supermoon, or a full moon that is also at its closest approach to Earth in its orbit.

NICHOLAS D. CURTIS

## Random Hall eschews Family Weekend security policies

Random Hall will not be compelled to comply with the DSL's dorm security policy for Family Weekend — parents will not be granted automatic access to the building.

DSL's policy, which will still be in place elsewhere, allows any registered family member to access any undergraduate dorm at any time throughout the weekend.

"All families who have Family Weekend name badges only need to present their name badge and government-issued ID to the desk

attendant for verification when entering any undergraduate residence hall," according to an email from the department of Residential Life and Dining.

The DSL sought dorm feedback on that policy, which allowed family members to enter dorms without being signed in from 8 a.m. on Oct. 23 to 11 p.m. Oct. 25 but required students to follow the normal procedure.

Last year's Family Weekend security policies frustrated students across several MIT dorms, includ-

Nina Davis-Millis, Random Hall's housemaster, announced Monday that she and her husband, Chris Millis, will be leaving the dorm at the end of this academic year. Davis-Millis, who has been housemaster at Random for more than two decades, is also Director of Community Support and Staff Development at MIT Libraries. In an email to the dorm, she called her experience at Random "amazing" and "transformative."

She said that she and her hus-

band were leaving because they're "just ready." She said that she still loves Random, and called this a "bittersweet moment."

The couple has bought a house in Weymouth, about a half-hour's drive south of MIT, and will be moving there next summer. When asked if the move was because she wanted a "change of pace," Davis-Millis mentioned that, at 61, she would like "more leisure" and to "cut back to just one job."

**Davis-Millis, Page 14**

## More students pass bio & chem ASEs this year

*Overall ASE pass rate increases slightly*

By Christopher Wang

During freshman orientation this year, over 39 percent of the incoming freshman class sat for Advanced Standing Exams to receive credit for a variety of classes. The overall passing rate for ASEs was 59 percent, which is slightly higher than the past two years' average of 55 percent.

Freshmen performed unusually well on the 5.III (Principles of Chemical Science) ASE this year, Julie Norman, Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education told *The Tech*.

"This year's pass rate was 32.3

percent; in the past 12-18 percent has been the traditional pass rate," she said.

The number of students taking the exam, 443, was also up from last year's 398, Norman said. The pass rate on this year's 7.01x (Introductory Biology) ASE was also significantly higher than in previous years: 55 percent of students who took the exam this year passed, up from the 38 percent averaged over the last four years.

For the math and physics General Institute Requirements (GIRs),

**ASE, Page 3**

### IN SHORT

Get your flu shot today! MIT Medical is holding a walk-in flu-shot clinic today, Oct. 1, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Walker Memorial. Bring an MIT ID with you.

The Cambridge voter registration deadline is Oct. 14. If you meet the requirements, you can register online, by mail,

or in person before this year's elections.

Add date is Friday, Oct. 9. This is the last day to add subjects to your registration. A \$100 late fee and petition will be required of students completing registration after this date.

Send news and tips to [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu).

## Two MIT affiliates named MacArthur fellows

An MIT alumna and an MIT economics professor have been selected as 2015 MacArthur Fellows, and both will receive a no-strings-attached reward of \$625,000.

**MacArthur, Page 2**



Facilities workers clean a flood in Building 16 after heavy rains Thursday caused flooding in several campus basements.

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### DO YOU EVEN LIFT?

When I learned I got into MIT, I worried more about the swim test than about the academics. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 12**

### WHAT IS CODE?

A CS-illiterate attends HackMIT. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 12**

### WHY IS TRUMP RUNNING?

And how long will this go on? **OPINION, p. 4**



### 23 ARTISTS IN 3 DAYS

Flower crowns, beach balls, and light sticks at Boston Calling.

**ARTS, p. 11**

### ROCKING OUT ON THE CELLO

Beiser "uncovers" the greats. **ARTS, p. 11**

**MacArthur**, from Page 1

committee from a pool of nominees.

Assistant Professor Heidi Williams, who has been in MIT's economics department since 2011, received the fellowship for her research on the economics of innovation in the healthcare market. She has studied the implications of market behavior and public policy, such as intellectual property restrictions, on drug development and health care research.

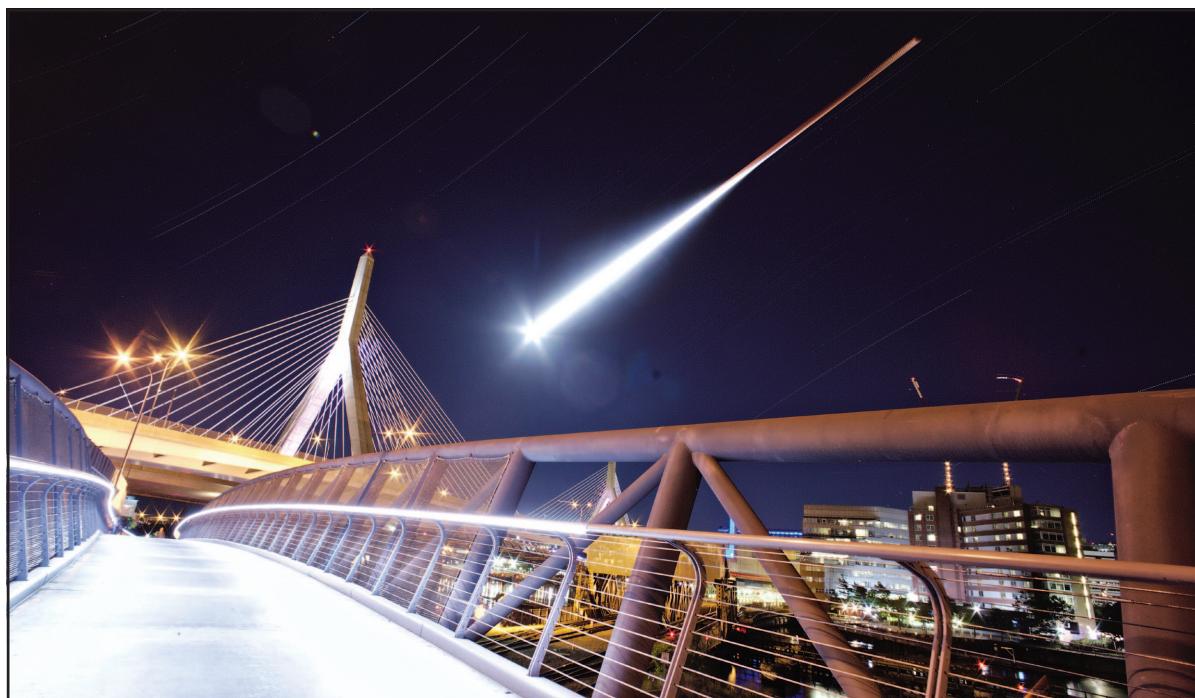
Cornell Professor William Dichtel '00, who graduated from MIT with a degree in chemistry, has broken ground on the study of covalent organic frameworks, which have practical applications in storing chemical fuels or electrical charge and purifying water. Covalent organic frameworks are ordered molecular grids or scaffolds with immense surface areas given their mass, and they were very difficult to work with until Dichtel's team demonstrated new techniques to incorporate them into devices.

Journalist Ta-Nehisi Coates, who was a visiting writing professor at MIT from 2012-2014, was recognized for his work addressing "complex and challenging issues such as racial identity, systemic racial bias, and urban policing."

Three MacArthur Fellows last year had MIT connections: Jacob Lurie was an MIT associate math professor, and Ai-jen Poo and Rick Lowe were Community Innovators Lab fellows.

The \$625,000 award will be paid out to each fellow in five annual installments.

—Ray Wang

**Institute Double Take**

**By Dheera Venkatraman**

A long exposure image of the first half of the Sept. 27 lunar eclipse, taken from near Boston's Zakim Bridge, showing the moon's decreasing luminosity and characteristic red hue at totality resulting from the wavelength-dependent Rayleigh scattering of the earth's atmosphere. The image was taken by stacking 320 images taken at 30-second intervals.

**Exposure Time:**  
2 sec. x 320

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**WEATHER**

## Developing Hurricane Joaquin is unlikely to affect Massachusetts

**By Colin Thackray**  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

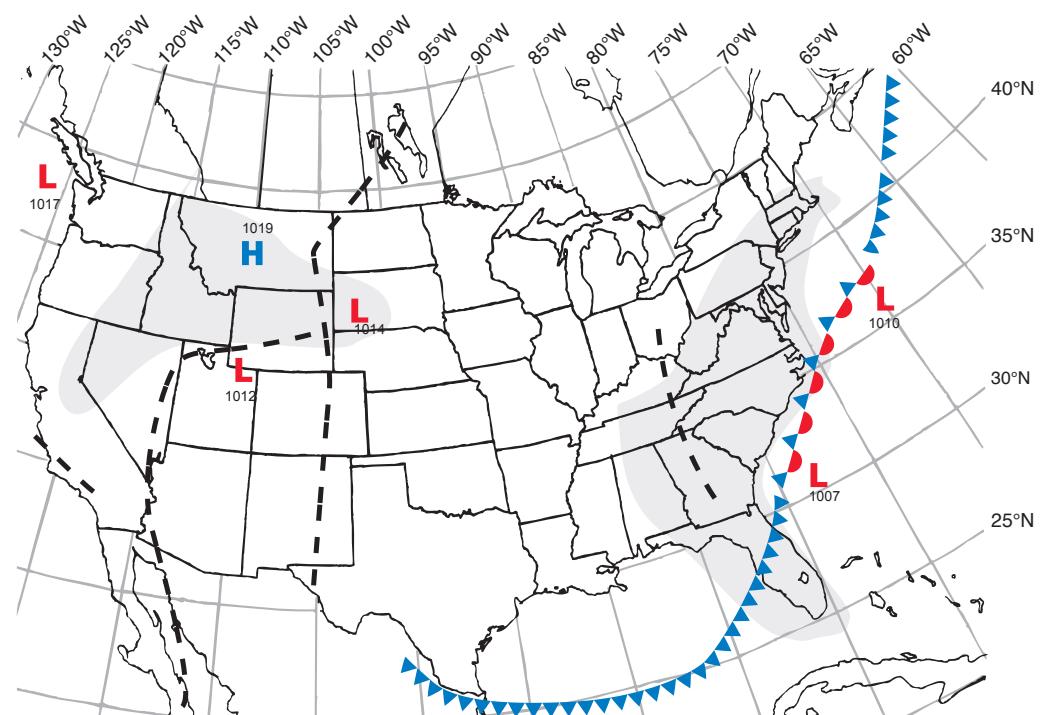
Mild temperatures and a chance of rain will be the norm through the end of the weekend. It will be noticeably cooler than the beginning of the week was, with rain likely at some point over the weekend.

In the Caribbean, there is a storm (Joaquin) currently strengthening to a category 2 hurricane, threatening the Bahamas over the next day or so. Current forecasts have the storm

hitting the Eastern U.S. late this weekend or early next week, most likely in North Carolina or Virginia. At the same time, forecast models show the possibility of Joaquin hitting as far south as South Carolina and as far north as Massachusetts, or even staying off the east coast entirely. A handful of days in advance there is still much uncertainty in the forecast and readers are advised to check resources such as the National Hurricane Center as the storm develops to plan their weekends wisely.

**Extended Forecast**

**Today:** High of 60°F. Winds N 15-20 mph. Chance of showers.  
**Tonight:** Low of 50°F. Winds NE 15-20 mph. Chance of showers.  
**Tomorrow:** High of 55°F. Winds NE 20-25 mph. Chance of rain.  
**Saturday:** High of 55°F. Winds NE 20-25 mph. Chance of rain.  
**Sunday:** High of 60°F. Winds NE 15-20 mph. Chance of rain.



**Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, October 1, 2015**

Weather Systems		Weather Fronts		Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols	
H	High Pressure	- - -	Trough	*	Rain	Fog	
L	Low Pressure	● ● ●	Warm Front	▽ ▽ ▽		Thunderstorm	
§	Hurricane	▲ ▲ ▲	Cold Front	*	•	Haze	
		△ △ △	Stationary Front	**	..		
				Heavy	***		
					..		

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*

File Edit Options Buffers Tools Im-Python Python Help

```
from new_skills import *
```

```
def learnMarketableJobSkills():
    return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python, PHP

if self.interest == True:
    print "E-mail join@tech.mit.edu"
```

----:----F1 joinTechno.py

(Python)--L1--Top-----

# Pass rate for chem ASE up from 2014

*As in years past, slightly more than half of those taking 18.01 ASE pass*

ASE, from Page 1

ASE pass rates deviated little from their past values. This year, 36 percent of students passed the 8.01 (Physics I) ASE, while 56 percent of students passed the 18.01 (Single Variable Calculus) ASE. The average rate over the last four years has been 37 percent for 8.01 and 52 percent for 18.01.

ASEs offer students an opportunity to receive credit for prerequisite classes, allowing them to move on to higher-level courses. With a few exceptions, MIT does not award credit for AP or IB classes, which often do not cover all the material in an MIT GIR.

Although most ASEs resemble the course's final exam, Sooraj Boominathan '19 found that "the

5.112 OCW materials definitely helped more than the 5.111 materials in preparation for the chemistry exam. The ASE was definitely harder than the 5.111 final posted on the OCW page."

Some students chose not to take ASEs, even though they had the necessary high school experience.

Cannon Vogel '19, decided not to take the 8.01, 18.02 and 18.03 exams, choosing instead to re-learn some material in order to "build firm backgrounds in the subjects." Vogel does not regret his decision: "The professors are really good at taking things I thought I knew and twisting them into problems that are actually difficult." Vogel also said that not jumping into new material right away has given him "more time for friends and activities."

## Solution to Pumpkin from page 6

4	3	1	2
2	1	3	4
3	2	4	1
1	4	2	3

## Solution to Spice from page 6

3	4	1	2
2	3	4	1
1	2	3	4
4	1	2	3

## Solution to Latte

from page 6

2	4	3	1
1	3	2	4
3	1	4	2
4	2	1	3

## Solution to Crossword from page 5

ACRE	CROWS	ACHE
NOEL	RODEO	SHOW
ELSE	OBOES	HARE
WATCHWORD	COINS	
TENTS	BARN	
SPREES	FORESTS	
TRIED	DRONE	TIL
YENS	BAAED	SOLO
LEG	BURNS	STREP
ENLARGE	CHEESE	
ERAS	TAHOE	
APART	CAMEOROLE	
LODE	VASES	SWAN
ALES	AGENT	TEND
SORT	NERDS	ODES

## Solution to The Great Pumpkin from page 6

2	3	7	5	6	1	8	9	4
1	2	6	4	5	9	7	8	3
8	9	4	2	3	7	5	6	1
9	1	5	3	4	8	6	7	2
5	6	1	8	9	4	2	3	7
6	7	2	9	1	5	3	4	8
4	5	9	7	8	3	1	2	6
7	8	3	1	2	6	4	5	9
3	4	8	6	7	2	9	1	5



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- Death by Chemistry
- My Very First Website
- Cake Decorating

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR****Invisible efforts to reduce suicides**

Before coming to MIT as a postdoc in 2013, news of student suicides hadn't affected me as they do now. I went to large schools: UMass-Amherst for undergrad and The University of Texas at Austin for my PhD. I only recall hearing news of a suicide about once a year, but the rate here feels painfully higher. Following last week's report of an MIT graduate student's death, I felt compelled to get involved and began to search for organized efforts within the MIT community. I have to say, what I found (or, rather, what I did not find) shocked me. Despite several articles in which MIT acknowledged the problem of suicides and appeared to commit to addressing the issue, even citing resources, nowhere could I find a salient lifeline for students in crisis at MIT.

**Following last week's report of a graduate student's death, I felt compelled to get involved.**

First, I looked at the Student Support Services webpage and was met with the following cavalier message:

*Being a student at MIT can sometimes feel like drinking from a fire hose and Student Support Services is here to help you manage the water pressure.*

*We are a friendly and easily accessible hub of support for MIT students. Whether you are struggling with a pset because of something going on in your life, you feel too ill to take an exam, you are considering taking time away from the Institute, or you just don't know who to talk to, we can help.*

Absent entirely was any sort of prompt containing words such as crisis, or safety, or the phone number for the national suicide prevention lifeline. There is a number for "mental health and counseling" listed along with five others under the heading "for urgent concerns or after hours." Yet one of the first principles taught in suicide prevention training is the importance of being non-judgmental. Hence, directing a person to call a number for mental health counseling may not be the most effective in-the-moment strategy when that person is suicidal.

I also looked up the Active Minds group at MIT. Google pointed me first to its Facebook page, where the link next to "website" led me to a "404 error: not-found" message (though one of the links on their "about us" page worked). At the bottom right corner of the page, not visible on my laptop without scrolling down, was diminutive blue text on a blue background, reading "In crisis? Call ..." along with a number. Well, at least that's more than the S3 page provided, but why isn't it at the top of the page in big, bold text? Furthermore, I couldn't find any useful information about how to join the MIT team, as the website only allows you to search by name, and inputting 'MIT' didn't return any results. Perhaps the

Facebook page is the official page? And if so, where is information about joining the efforts or getting help? Of course, I can intuit that if I "like" the page, I will see posts about upcoming events in my newsfeed. But what about members of the MIT community whose social lives or scheduling practices don't overlap significantly with Facebook?

**MIT's efforts and resources do not appear highly visible to those who are interested in addressing this issue.**

MIT is extending its efforts and programs, but the visibility remains problematic. Only after speaking about this topic with staff at *The Tech* did I learn about the support resource *together.mit.edu*. One recently added program, "Let's Chat," is also extremely limited in terms of accessibility, only available for a few hours during business days.

This can't be the front line of MIT's efforts to engage the community and reduce student suicides, can it? I do believe that MIT is deeply concerned by these deaths. Yet I write this letter to point out that the Institute's efforts and resources do not appear highly visible to those who are interested in addressing this issue, and more importantly, to those who need them.

*Emily Carino is a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Chemical Engineering.*

**The always-entertaining Donald Trump**  
**Hired or fired?**

By Benjamin Chazen

The jury is still out on the question, and they're likely to be out for a while longer. Despite the fact that Trump has been the Republican frontrunner for months now, some people still can't wrap their minds around the idea that the real-estate mogul and TV personality has his eye on the Oval Office. The issue as it stands today boils down to this: Is Donald Trump a real presidential candidate with a vision, or is this ultimately a PR stunt?

**He knows how to command a stage and stir the pot, but what it is exactly that he's cooking is more or less a mystery.**

First of all, Donald Trump stands for Donald Trump, plain and simple. During the first debate, he publicly did not pledge to abstain from running an independent campaign if he is not chosen as the eventual Republican nominee. He was the only candidate out of 10 who declined to make that pledge, inciting boos from the crowd and a reminder from moderator Bret Baier that "an independent run would almost certainly hand the race over to Democrats and likely another Clinton."

Donald Trump is a political outsider, which may be advantageous for him. In fact, none of the top three Republican presidential candidates has ever held political office. As of Sept. 24, according to a Real Clear Politics average of national

polls, Trump leads with 23.4 percent support, followed by Dr. Ben Carson with 17.0 percent and Carly Fiorina with 11.6 percent. Ben Carson is an accomplished neurosurgeon, the first ever to separate twins conjoined at the head, and Fiorina was the CEO of Hewlett-Packard from 1999 to 2005.

Many Americans are weary of the political establishment, and some are even angry. Approval of Congress hovers around 14 percent, and in 2014, voter turnout for congressional elections was the lowest it's been since 1942. There may therefore be

something appealing about a blank slate politician who storms into the presidency with a fresh vision and energy. On the other hand, a candidate who has never experienced the inner workings of American government may struggle to fulfill his or her built-up expectations.

Trump is a quick-fix candidate. In his world, a wall along the Mexican border is a cure. His slogan "Make America Great Again!" assumes that voters, for the most part, would agree that America is currently not great. While in the past, many politicians praised our country to gain support, many Republican candidates and voters in today's political climate seem to work under the assumption that the nation is in acute distress. Widespread dis-

satisfaction with our political institutions makes the electorate more vulnerable to demagogues. But perhaps many are misguided in thinking Trump is the man for the job. Let's examine some of Trump's statements:

On trade: "When was the last time anybody saw us beating, let's say China, in a trade deal? I beat China all the time. All the time."

"Free trade is terrible. Free trade can be wonderful if you have smart people. But we have stupid people."

On labor: "I will be the greatest jobs president that God ever created."

On ISIS: "They built a hotel. When I build a hotel, I have to pay interest. They don't have to pay interest because they took the oil when we left Iraq, I said we should have taken. So now ISIS has the oil."

Trump's blustering style leads him to make black-and-white comments that are simply too extreme to be taken seriously. He knows how to command a stage and stir the pot, but what it is exactly that he's cooking is more or less a mystery. There is no denying that the systemic political problems we face today require nuanced thinking. Thus far, Trump has proven himself to be lacking in this department. He taps into the emotions connected to a widespread lack of faith in our government but fails to establish in a rigorous intellectual sense that he's ready to take on the world's most difficult job.

*Benjamin Chazen is a member of the Class of 2019.*

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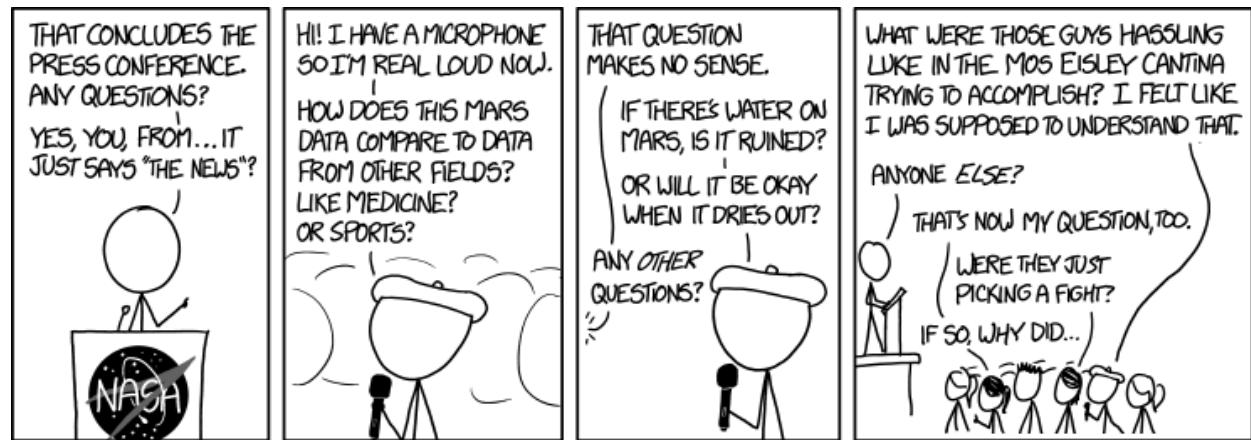
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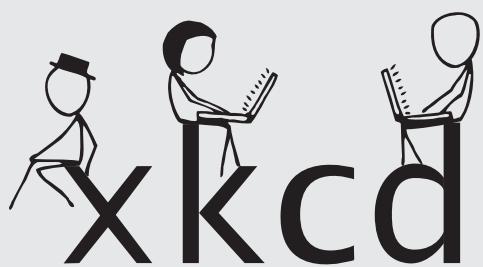
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## [1583] NASA Press Conference



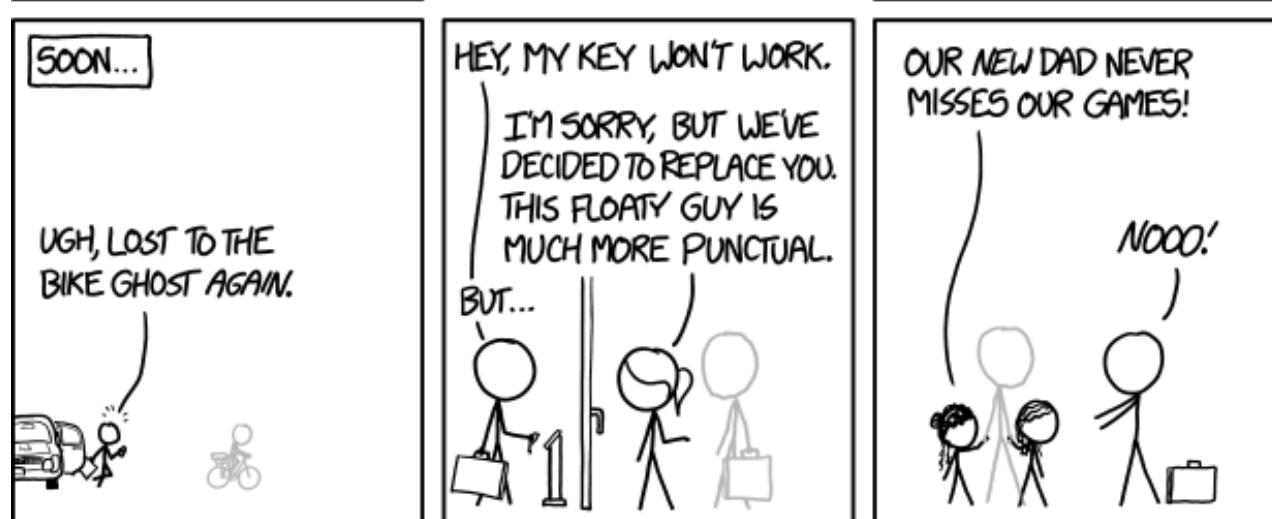
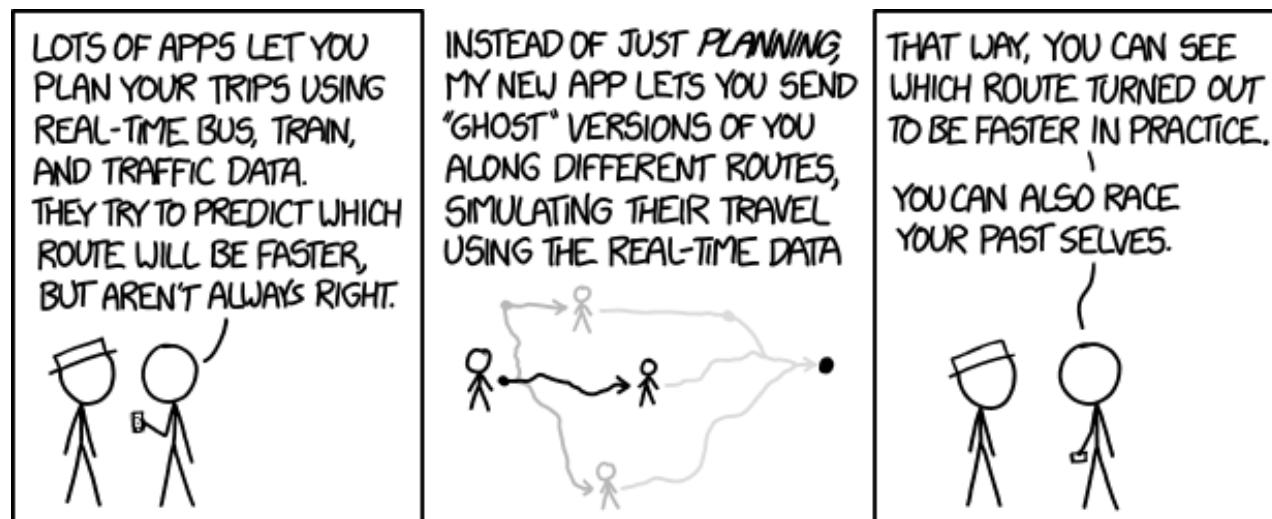
Why are we spending billions to ruin Mars with swarms of robots when Elon Musk has promised to ruin Mars for a FRACTION of the cost?



**A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE,  
SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE**

by Randall Munroe

## [1580] Travel Ghost



And a different ghost has replaced me in the bedroom.

# Jewelry Box

Solution, page 3

## ACROSS

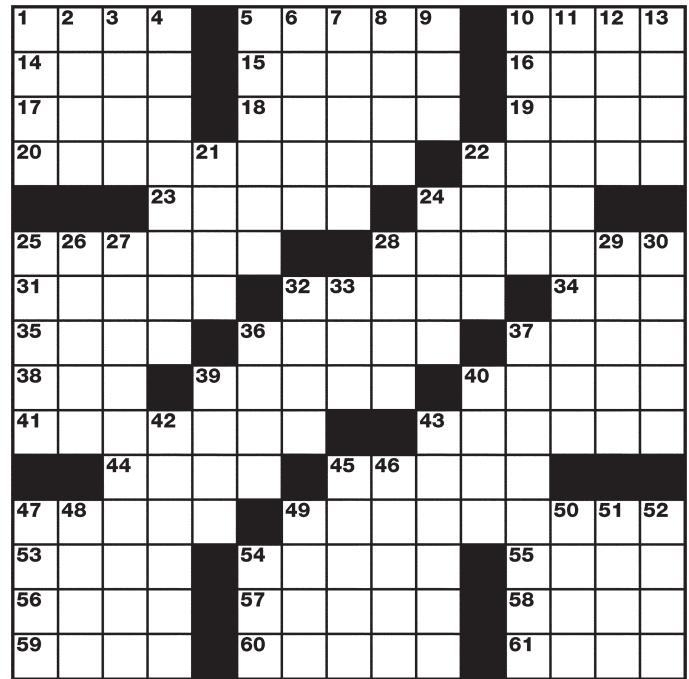
1 Cornfield measure  
5 Cornfield birds  
10 Have sore muscles  
14 Christmas carol  
15 Bronco-riding event  
16 Performance  
17 "So what \_\_ is new?"  
18 Woodwind instruments  
19 Rabbit relative  
20 Slogan  
22 Nickels and quarters  
23 Camping shelters  
24 Hayloft locale  
25 Shopping binges  
28 Thickly wooded areas  
31 Made an attempt  
32 Plane without a pilot  
34 Up to, for short  
35 Cravings  
36 Sounded like a sheep  
37 Fly by oneself  
38 Turkey drumstick  
39 Overcooks on the barbecue  
40 Throat ailment

41 Make bigger	10 On dry land
43 Cheddar or Swiss	11 National retail outlet
44 Historical time periods	12 Trumpet or bugle
45 Western resort lake	13 Lambs' moms
47 Take __ (disassemble)	21 Follow the advice of
49 Small part for a film star	22 Show concern
53 Vein of ore in a mine	24 Fictional spy James
54 Bouquet holders	25 In __ (fashionable)
55 Graceful bird	26 Fuss in front of a mirror
56 Pub beverages	27 Crime boss
57 Insurance broker	28 Opponents
58 Take care of	29 Kitchen flooring pieces
59 Separate into stacks	30 Inclined surface
60 Geeks	32 Take a chance
61 Verses of praise	33 Competed in a marathon

DOWN

**DOWN**

- 1 All over again
- 2 Fast-food beverage
- 3 Take a breather
- 4 Those voted into office
- 5 Kings' headgear
- 6 Worker made out of metal
- 7 Aromas
- 8 Unwanted garden plant
- 9 Sailor's "Help!"
- 37 Points in the direction of
- 39 "Spoiled" kid
- 40 "Scat!"
- 42 Take into custody
- 43 Pirates' treasure holders
- 45 Stun gun
- 46 Modify, as a law
- 47 "Dear me"
- 48 Sport on horseback
- 49 Hamster's home



50 Was in debt  
51 Narrow road

52 Brings to a halt  
54 Mover's vehicle

# Pumpkin

Solution, page 3

72x		3+	
	24x		
		4	
8x			3

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–4. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

# Spice

Solution, page 3

11+			2
2		16x	
8x		3	
		6x	

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–4. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

# Latte

Solution, page 3

48x			5+
9x			
	8x		6x
4		1	

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–4. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

# The Great Pumpkin

## Solution, page 3

$12\times$	$23+$	$26+$		$4$
1	$10+$	$63\times$	$12+$	3
$31+$	$18\times$		$6\div$	
	$4-$	$32\times$	$12\times$	$14\times$
$180\times$	$288\times$		$14+$	
$5-$	$10+$	$15\times$		$2-$
$26+$		$24\times$	$8\times$	
$56\times$	3	$168\times$		$45\times$
$96\times$	6		$8-$	5

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.



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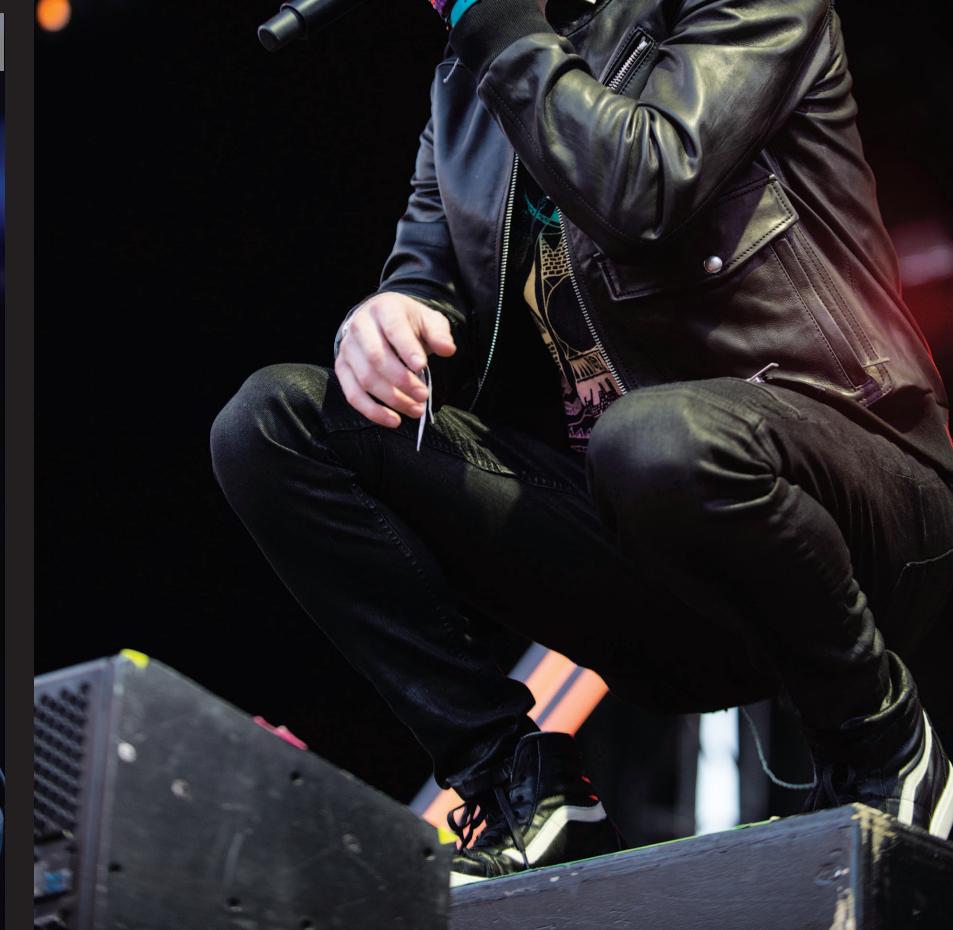
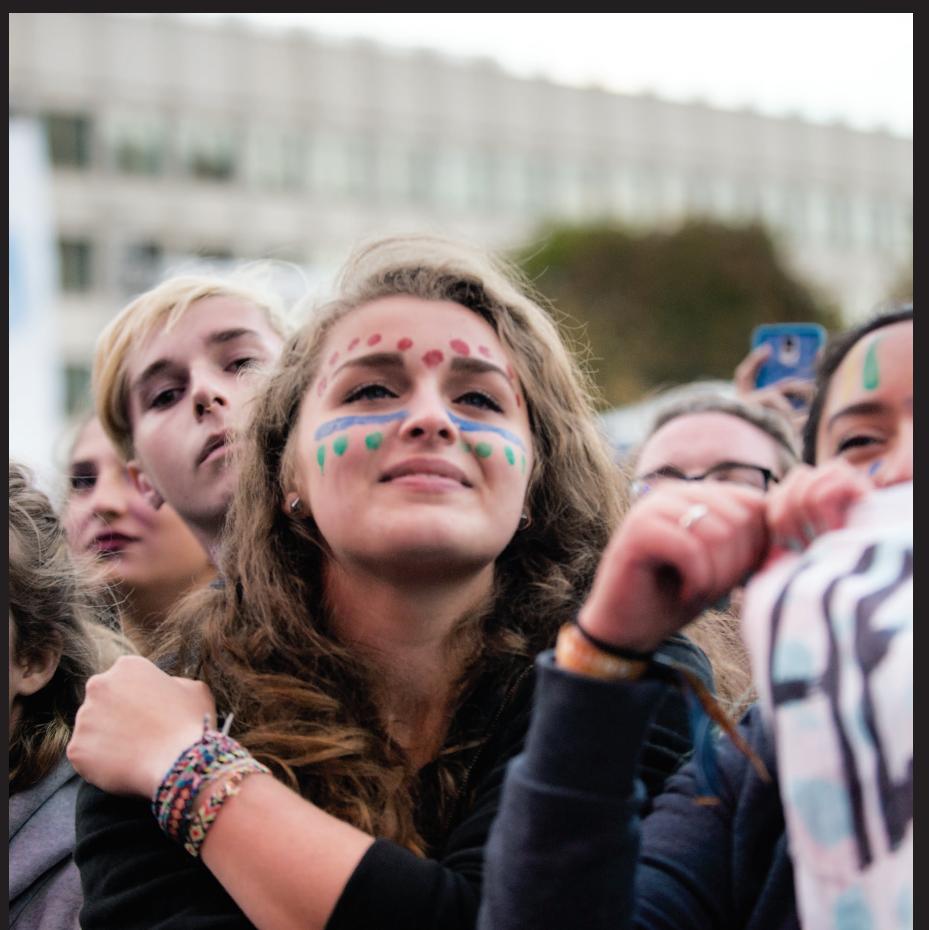
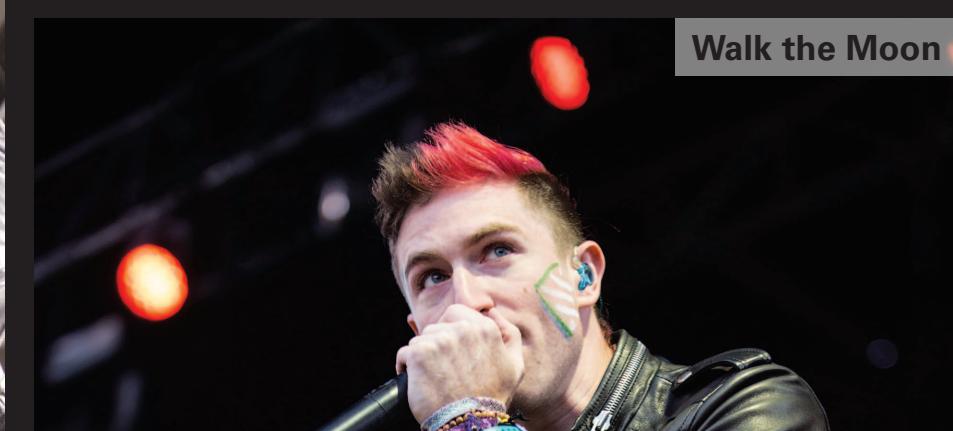
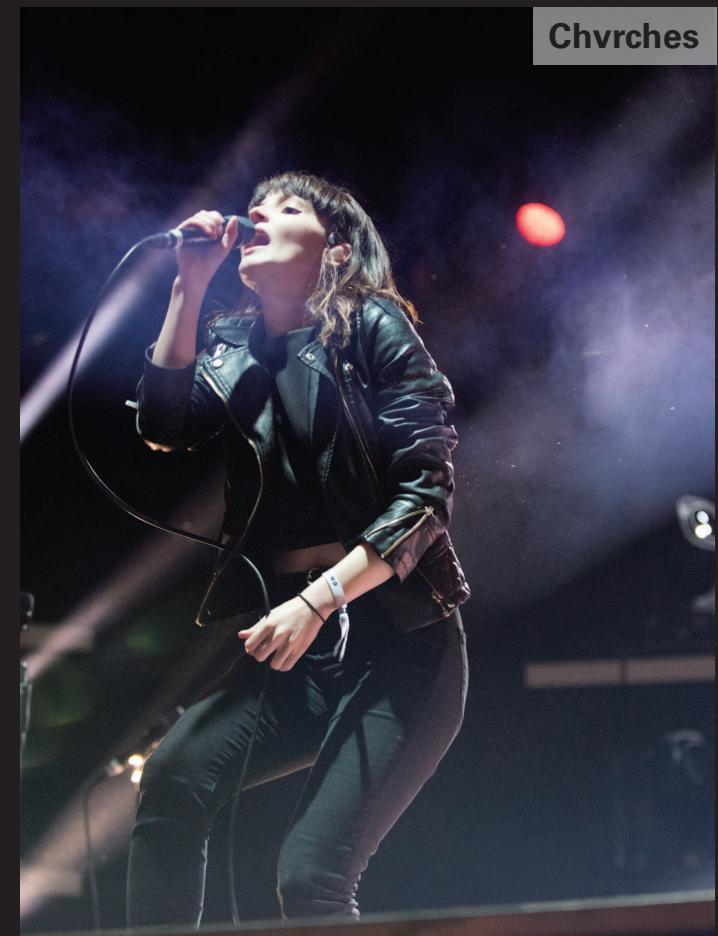
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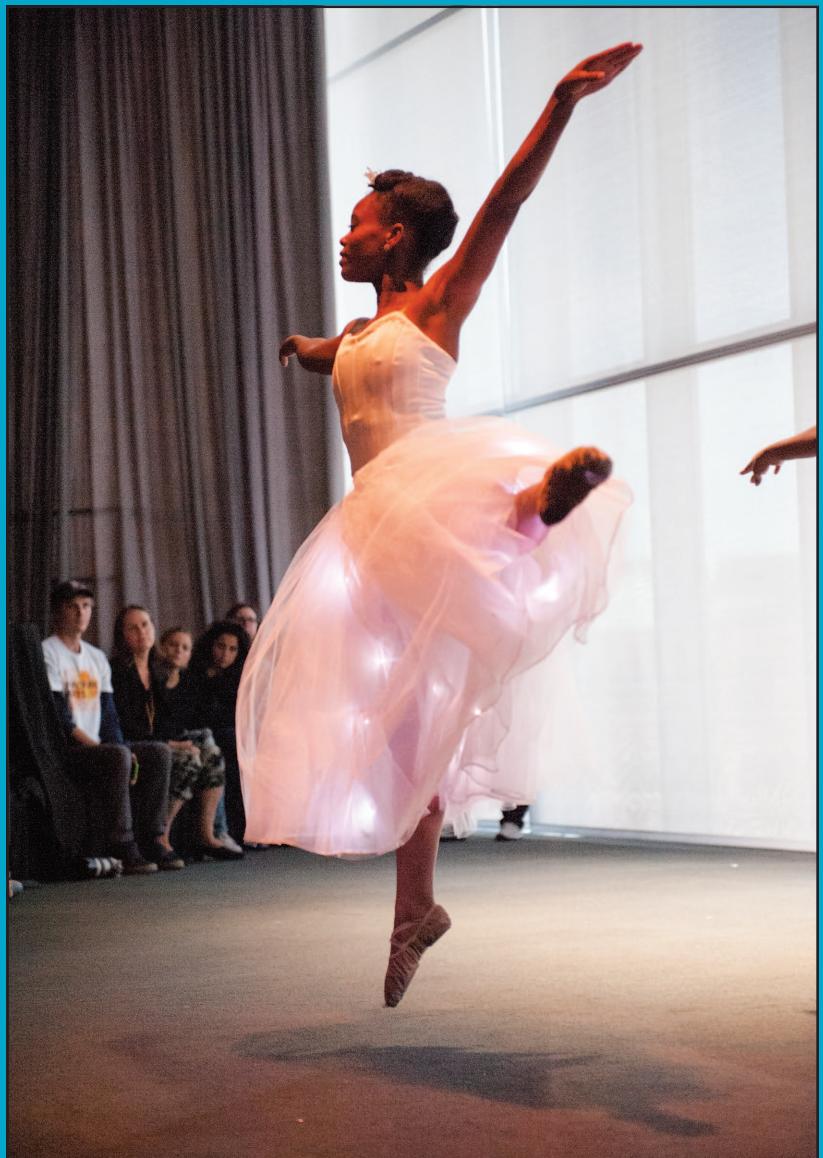
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# BOSTON Calling

Photography by  
Jessica L. Wass



# HACKING ARTS 2015

Hacking Arts is an annual conference, hackathon, and tech expo centered on the intersection of technology and the arts. The conference on Saturday included panels on topics like desirable design, entrepreneurship in gaming, and interactive cinema as well as a keynote speech by Young Guru on the “Era of the Engineer.”

Photography by Lenny Martinez





# Raising the bar

## How I got into exercising

By Elaine Lin

When I learned I got into MIT, I worried more about the swim test and PE requirements than about the academics.

Back in high school, I hated exercise because I sucked at it. I read all about how to exercise more, but never really did.

Internet articles give all sorts of perky advice, advertising "10-Minute Full Body Workout" or "The Only 12 Exercises You Need!" With hundreds of suggestions, I could never figure out which movements to do. Exercises called "the inchworm" or "donkey kick" just sound like awkward dance moves, and let's be honest: arm circles do not count as an upper body workout.

With no equipment, I tried to get out more to run. On some weekend mornings,

I would strap on my shoes, stretch, walk to warm up, and start running. Some runners get a "runner's high," but the endorphins never really kicked in for me because I was exhausted after five minutes.

This lack of endurance made getting to classes a struggle. My high school had two buildings — two stories each and more than a quarter mile apart — and only six minutes between classes. As soon as the bell rang, I would run down the stairs, speed walk across campus, clamber up yet more stairs, and finally arrive to class, barely in time and very out of breath.

Fortunately, at MIT, a bit of peer pressure and convenient exercise facilities motivated me to actually go exercise more.

My freshman fall, my friend took me lifting for the first time at the New House gym.

The only equipment I recognized was the dumbbell rack. I had no clue where to begin.

One dude was already there, squatting a bar plus six huge plates for a total of 315 pounds. I had never squatted any weight before, so my friend suggested that I start out with the bar. Only 45 pounds, so I figured it should be easy.

Actually, it took me a while to be able to squat the bar, and it took me even longer to be able to bench it. But, even my first time lifting, I could complete the same routine as stronger people with smaller weights. Unlike when running, I did not feel immediately fatigued. When the standard bar was too heavy, I used the smaller 20-pound bars or dumbbells.

Exercising regularly no longer felt like an impossible goal. When I first started, I

did not know whether my routine was optimal for getting swole fast, nor did I care. I regularly went lifting three times a week, and I increased the weights I used as I got stronger.

Since then, I've improved my old routines. Amateur lifters don't really need separate arm and leg days, nor do they need tons of bicep curls. My routine now consists of squats, bench presses, and deadlifts — three exercises that target multiple muscle groups.

I have raised the bar when it comes to exercise. I used to consider 5-minute jogs and body weight squats to be a workout. Come on, Elaine, do you even lift? Now, I can say, "Yes, yes I do."

*Elaine Lin is a member of the Class of 2018.*

## THE FIRST YEAR

# So how exactly do I make an app?

## A comp sci-illiterate attends HackMIT

By Vivian Zhong

It might be exaggeration on my part to say that I'm wholly illiterate, but compared to the ever-expanding language of computers, my programming experience pretty much equates to knowing the alphabet. Two Saturdays ago, equipped with a somewhat functioning knowledge of command prompt and for loops, I entered the cavernous hub of ingenuity that is HackMIT.

For the entire week leading up to the hackathon, I would cringe every time I heard someone discussing coding, apps, or complicated math-y things I'd never heard of — anything related to comp sci. MIT being MIT, I was cringing left and right; such conversations inevitably reminded me of how little I knew, and how utterly unprepared I was.

Yet at the same time, I was terribly excited. I'd had an idea for an app filed away in my brain for a while, and from time to time I'd fantasize about realizing it. The thought of being able to finally turn my thoughts

into a working program had me quite giddy.

This dichotomy of feelings lasted all the way through HackMIT. I discovered that I indeed knew very little — certainly insufficient to realize my app idea. My two teammates, though both more proficient than I was, had not the wherewithal to make it either. And it didn't help that a mentor walking around told us that our app was neither particularly original nor realistically feasible. We decided to ignore him and plough on ahead. From then on it was a long day and night of mixed confusion, frustration, camaraderie, and delight.

There is nothing quite like the euphoria you get from seeing an app that you helped create work for the first time after many dark hours of error messages. This moment came close to the end of the hacking period, and it itself made all the challenges that came before entirely worth it.

And HackMIT provided much more beyond that: I bonded with a team of people I'd never met before; I pitched our admittedly simple app to company reps as if it was

a real product, and basked in the warming glow of reciprocated enthusiasm. As for our early skeptic, we never did meet him again.

Our app would still be stuck in Python purgatory if it were not for the devoted help of other mentors, who spent hours at a time not only fixing our programming problems but explaining them thoroughly so that I could actually build my knowledge and experience.

Of even greater help was a friend who, by way of Skype, basically became the fourth member of our team. He gave us enough information to get us started, but not so much that we could not call the project our own. There is no need to shy away from aid at HackMIT; only make sure that you are receiving the right kind.

I saw many different approaches to HackMIT among the myriad participants. There were those who were definitely in it to win it, but there were also many who, like my team, were not. The most relaxed approach consisted of not really competing, but rather going around lending a

hand here and there, chatting with different teams, going to company talks, and, indispensably, collecting free swag and eating free food — and everyone who did it had an absolute blast.

I personally chose a middle road: I was focused on accomplishing my goal, but not so singularly as to disavow frivolity. In the middle of our coding session, I decided to borrow a Synaptics sensor — not because I planned on incorporating it into the project, but because who knew when else I'd get to play around with one?

In essence, I think that HackMIT is something of a microcosm of MIT as a whole. It's intimidating, it's sometimes hard to get through, but you'll come through having met the greatest people and passing the most amazing time. So don't be afraid to dive into programming culture at the deep end that is hacking. You'll sputter and flounder, but you'll surface knowing how to swim.

*Vivian Zhong is a member of the Class of 2019.*

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This space donated by The Tech



# Davis-Millis reflects on family's time at Random

## *Housemaster search committee to convene next semester with 2 student representatives*

**Davis-Millis, from Page 1**

Davis-Millis became housemaster of Random in 1995. Her son, a "smart, quirky" kid, was about to enter kindergarten at the time, and he didn't fit in well in their neighborhood in Dorchester, where Davis-Millis and her husband lived. "What better place than an MIT dorm" to find a community, she recalled thinking. So she and her husband went through an interview process and were selected. She said that one of the students asked what she and her husband would do if they heard a scream at 2:30 a.m. "That depends on the scream," her husband replied.

"I thought that was a great answer, and so, apparently, did Random Hall," Davis-Millis said.

She said that Random Hall has changed her in many ways. Living

among engineers "has been really revelatory" for her. She has come to appreciate the engineering mindset, which she describes as "seeing the world not just as this mysterious state that happens" but instead like "a series of problems that can be broken down and solved." She also described the joy she has come to find in diversity, not only that of different nationalities and backgrounds, but of different ways of thinking. She said it has been "thrilling" to help build a community that "really gets behind exploring and celebrating our differences."

Next semester, there will be a search for a new housemaster. The search committee will be chaired by another housemaster, most likely one from an east campus dorm, and will include Senior Associate Dean for Student Life Henry J. Humphreys, Random Residential

Life Area Director Michael Barcelo, two students (usually president and vice president of the dorm), one Graduate Resident Tutor, and other MIT faculty members.

Candidates approved by the search committee will be brought to the dorm so residents will have the opportunity to interview them. In a dorm-wide meeting held Monday night, Davis-Millis encouraged residents to approach their favorite faculty members about the housemaster opportunity. While housemasters are typically tenured professors, Davis-Millis indicated that the Random housemaster position may be open to non-tenured faculty as well: Random's small size and its limited accommodations might make it more difficult to convince people to apply for the job. In addition, non-tenured faculty may have more time to devote to students in the dorm.

Davis-Millis said she doesn't think she will be able to resist giving advice to the future housemasters of Random, even if they don't want it.

When asked about her favorite stories, she told one about the day her family's collie had to be put down. Her son, then a junior in high school, was very upset, and wanted to clear his mind by running on the treadmill. The treadmill, however, required a key in order to operate, and the key had to be checked out from desk, which was closed at the time. Davis-Millis ran "frantically" around the building, and finally found a desk worker. The student happened to be an International Math Olympiad competitor, and Davis-Millis, who admitted she is slightly math-phobic, had always been in awe of him. She was crying, and said, "I'm so embarrassed to be so emotionally dependent on an animal."

And the student said, "I wouldn't be embarrassed. We all depend on each other all the time."

She said she thought to herself: "You know, that's it. That's really it. I'm in a place with these mathematicians whose work I don't understand, but damn, if there's one thing we all know, it's that we do all depend on each other all the time, dying collies, and treadmills, and all."

Davis-Millis is beloved by Random residents. At least a third of the residents showed up for the meeting on Monday night. She assured a somber community that "it's gonna be fine." Near the end, she called for last questions, and Random Co-President Taylor S. Sutton '17 raised his hand.

"You have a question, Taylor?"

He walked over and hugged Davis-Millis. "That's what I was hoping it would be," she said.

# Founding a makerspace in Iraq presents challenges

## *Law, politics, and culture each cause difficulty for would-be makers in Middle East*

**Makers, from Page 1**

the top 10 with his project called i-mimic, which is a motion-capture suit to be used by 3D animators.

It was at this competition that Arif connected with MIT for the first time. He later met MIT's director of digital currency, Brian Forde, in Iraq. The two kept in touch, and with the help of a non-profit organization called PeaceTech Lab, Arif made his first trip to the United States this week.

Arif was accompanied by Mohammed Hassan Abdulaleem and Abdulreda Hussein Reshak, who also helped found Science Camp. Their trip was part of a larger initiative by PeaceTech Lab to encourage the use of technology in minimizing violence in conflict regions. Tim Receveur, director of the program called PeaceTech Exchanges, said they have worked in Iraq for about two years on "better governance, citizen engagement." While they usually host events in the countries they work in, this was a unique case where they helped bring Arif and his co-founders to the United States. In addition to visiting MIT, the three attended the New York Maker Faire on Sunday.

Arif, Abdulaleem, and Reshak presented some of their projects

during a public event at MIT on Monday evening. They showcased a glove they built at Science Camp that can be used to display a dynamic 3D model of one's hand on a computer. Animators could use the glove to capture motion and gamers might enjoy the more realistic quality it lends to games.

Arif started Science Camp after taking part in events at a Baghdad makerspace begun in 2012. The makerspace had a culture unlike the restrictive one he'd grown accustomed to in the pharmaceutical industry. It was emphasis on open source technology and "how people share knowledge" that inspired Arif to introduce a makerspace in Basra.

For Abdulaleem, the new maker space was a place to improve his skills and broaden his career horizons. Despite studying electrical engineering, he found there were few opportunities to be creative with engineering outside of college, a situation that resulted in many of his classmates joining large oil companies after graduating. Abdulaleem felt that the companies curbed innovation and forced people to follow a set template.

Today, all founders work part-time at Science Camp while supporting themselves through jobs in

bigger industries. They have tried to make it a space where they can escape the limitations of their day jobs. There is little separation between people working on different projects, and Arif emphasizes collaboration between different fields like architecture and mechanical engineering.

Believing that Iraqis consider him and his colleagues "pioneers," Arif encourages children to use the makerspace and hopes to add activities specifically for them, such as a Lego workshop he saw in Berlin. Iraq has very few science museums and other resources that would encourage children to go into STEM, which Science Camp hopes to help change. According to Arif, it is "an investment that no one has yet made."

When asked if religious tension in Iraq, such as between Sunnis and Shiites, causes a divide in the maker community, Arif said that he considers it an inclusive community and that through Science Camp he and his co-founders "want to redefine the polarity in Iraq to be makers and want-to-be-makers." He noted that men and women of all ages are welcome to join.

The lack of support for STEM resources has caused logistical problems for Science Camp as well.

Chemicals and electronic parts are not easy to order because online shopping is a rarity. When Arif and his colleagues can find the materials, they have to wait a month or more because of shipping and restrictions — "not everything can enter the Middle East," he said.

Little financial support is offered for events, so Science Camp attempted to "crowdfund." However, because of how little people know about the Internet, the crowdfunding was done offline by having an information session where not only the concept of a maker space, but even the concept of crowdfunding, had to be explained to people who are used to very different forms of business. It's this unfamiliarity and lack of interest in STEM that Science Camp aims to turn around.

The founders of Science Camp believe their makerspace and the entire culture behind the maker movement have the potential to promote peace in an area stricken by wars. For Nawres, it's not about the technology, but rather the connections that form between makers.

Violence forms out of ignorance, he said, so the most important thing is to make "contact with the thing you think [of as the] enemy," because to him, all those

who are makers are not enemies but rather "a big family." The three co-founders had hoped visiting the U.S. would broaden their perspective through meeting other makers at the Maker Faire and at MIT.

While at MIT, Arif, Abdulaleem, and Reshak were inspired by the strength of the community and the ease with which collaboration takes place. Of the groups they visited, Abdulaleem and Reshak particularly enjoyed meeting the rocket team. Arif was impressed by the fusion between art and technology in various projects. "This type of thinking must be transferred overseas," he said.

Going forward, the three technologists hope to further their connection to MIT. They are also considering turning their makerspace into a fabrication laboratory based off a program that was started in the Center for Bits and Atoms at the Media Lab.

Arif said he regarded MIT as a "grandfather in the fields of entrepreneurship and tinkering with technology and electronics." While he expressed his happiness for being here, he said he was truly thrilled that Abdulaleem and Reshak were here with him. In the future, he hopes "that many people from Basra come here."

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THE ISLAMIC STATE



WILLIAM McCANTS

**William McCants** is a fellow in the Center for Middle East Policy and director of the Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Johns Hopkins University and has served in government and think tank positions related to Islam, the Middle East and terrorism, including as State Department senior adviser for countering violent extremism.

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## PLAYER OF THE MONTH

# September: men's soccer's Sean Bingham '16

*Senior leads the MIT men's soccer team with 8 goals in 7 games to begin the season***By Souparno Ghosh**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The MIT men's soccer team is off to hot start this season (6-1, 2-0 in conference) thanks to their premier center forward Sean Bingham '16.

Bingham has found the back of the net a team-leading eight times and has the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) regular season title in his sights. Bingham '16, a former NEWMAC athlete of the year, is September's player of the month.

*The Tech:* Hello Sean, thanks

for talking to us! You have scored 8 goals in 7 games and helped MIT to a 6-1 start. Having been on a team that won the NEWMAC championship and another that reached the final the year after, how far do you think this team can go?

*Sean Bingham:* I think we are in a good position after this latest win against Babson. Usually two to four teams have a legitimate shot at winning the regular season championship. Our goal is to win the regular season this year. Then we get to host the playoffs. Once you get to the playoffs, anything can happen. Our main goal is to win the regular season and ideally go 7-0 in the conference.

*TT:* Since you have donned

the cardinal and grey jersey, your goals-per-game ratio is close to 1, which is phenomenal. What do you think makes you such a prolific scorer?

*SB:* I think I am very calm and composed in front of the goal. I have a good knack for being in the right spot. But a lot of it comes from teammates and the formation that we play. We play a 4-5-1 with me as the lone forward, so lot of the attacks are funneled through me.

*TT:* When did you start playing competitive soccer?

*SB:* I started playing club soccer when I was 7. I played for the Commack Club from the Long Island Junior Soccer League. A

lot of players from that club went on to play for Div. I schools. Interestingly, the goalie on that club team, Jake Amereno '16, is now the goalie here at MIT. We have been teammates and best friends for a long time now.

*TT:* Which soccer players do you idolize?

*SB:* Among my peers, there is Springfield College goalie Billy Schmid. He doesn't wear gloves but is very difficult to score against. I really appreciate competing against him and enjoy scoring against him.

Among pros, I would say Messi. He is just so fun to watch — definitely the best soccer player that has ever played.

*TT:* What are your plans after

graduation? Is competitive soccer part of it?

*SB:* A former player from Springfield College, Ryan Malone, just went pro from NEWMAC. So I would like to give that a shot. If not I will probably take a job in finance.

*TT:* Good luck for the rest of the season! Any final thoughts?

*SB:* The home support, a.k.a. the 12th man, has been absolutely amazing this year. Over the past few years our home record has been good. The team is grateful for all the support and hope you continue to come out in large numbers to cheer for us down the stretch.

*This transcript was lightly edited for clarity and length.*



Fiona J. Tanuwidjaja '19 setting the ball on Saturday as the women's volleyball team took on Regis College, beating them 3-0.



Shannon Miller '19 maintains control of an airborne ball during Tuesday's game against Tufts.

# Freshman makes final four at USTA regional tourney

*Cauneac '19 is the first from MIT to reach the final four since '06***By Max Berkowitz**

DAPER STAFF

Alex Cauneac '19 of the MIT men's tennis team made it all the way to the final four, before bowing out to Bowdoin College freshman Luke Tercek, 6-0,

6-2, in the semifinals of the USTA/ITA New England Regional Tournament which was held at Williams College over the weekend.

With his outstanding effort throughout the three day tournament, Cauneac '19 became the first member of the MIT men's tennis team to make it to the semifinals as a singles player since Evan Tindell '06 did it in back-to-back seasons. Tindell won the ITA New England championship in the fall of 2003 and was the runner-up the following season.

In doubles action, Tyler Barr '19 and Cauneac '19 teamed up for an 8-3 opening round win over the Amherst College duo of senior Russell Einbinder and freshman Jon Heidenberg. Unfortunately, the Engineers ran into the Middlebury College pairing of De Quant and the 2015 ITA Singles Champion senior Alleen Jackson, falling by a margin of 8-4.

MIT hosts its own Invitational Tournament this coming weekend.

## SPORTS SHORT

### September, week 5

**Women's volleyball**

The MIT women's volleyball team scored straight-set victories over Smith College and Regis College this past weekend. Abby Bertics '19 shone for the Engineers with 10 kills against Smith while Alli Davanzo '18 and Megan Gebhard '17 racked 8 kills apiece against Regis College. With the twin killing MIT improved to 13-1 overall and 4-0 in the conference.

**Men's soccer**

Sean Bingham '16 scored the only goal of the game as MIT topped Babson in a closely contested affair. Jake Amereno '16 registered his fourth shutout of the season as MIT improved to 6-1 and 2-0 in the conference.

**Women's soccer**

MIT women's soccer team suffered a 0-2 reversal at the hands of Springfield College this past Saturday. Center for

wards Olivia Struckman '18 and Morgan Moroi '16 both rattled the post but were unable to find the back of the net. With the defeat, MIT now has a 4-3-1 record overall and 1-1 in the conference.

**Men's cross country**

The men's cross country team began their season with a fourth place finish at the Purple Valley Classic hosted by Williams College. Daniel Weiss '19 finished a team-high 11th, finishing the 8-km course in 26:12:1.

**Women's cross country**

The MIT women's cross country team began their season with a third place finish at the Purple Valley Classic hosted by Williams College. Maryann Gong '17 finished third overall with a time of 22:06:6, and Nicole Zenistra '18 also grabbed a top-ten finish with a time of 22:32.3.

— Souparno Ghosh